

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 SSM-03 CIAE-00
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R 081133Z AUG 77
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INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
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AMEMBASSY CAIRO
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USCINCUE

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORC, LY, EG
SUBJ: LIBYA CONTINUES MEDIA ATTACK ON SADAT, ANTICIPATE RESUMPTION
OF HOSTILITIES

SUMMARY: LOCAL MEDIA INTERVIEW WITH NAMELESS LIBYAN
COMMANDER REPEATS ACCUSATIONS OF U.S. PARTICIPATION IN RECENT
HOSTILITIES, ANTICIPATES RENEWED ATTACKS FROM EGYPT.
EDITORIALS CLAIM CONSIDERABLE EGYPTIAN MILITARY LOSSES, ACCUSE
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SADAT OF DECIEIVING EGYPTIANS AND EXECUTING HIS OFFICERS. REPORTS
OF ARAB VOLUNTEERS ARRIVING IN LIBYA. END SUMMARY.

1. LIBYAN MEDIA ATTACKS AGAINST EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT
CONTINUE UNABATED DESPITE SPECULATIVE REPORTS FROM BEIRUT
THAT EGYPT HAS AGREED TO CEASE ITS PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN
AGAINST LIBYA. MOST RECENT ATTACK UPON SADAT WAS BROADCAST

AUG 7 DURING INTERVIEW OF LIBYAN COMMANDER OF ABDEL NASIR AIR BASE BY CORRESPONDENT OF KUWAITI PUBLICATION AL-WATAN. COMMANDER REITERATED LIBYAN CHARGES OF US PARTICIPATION IN RECENT BORDER SKIRMISH. HE FURTHER CLARIFIED THE ACCUSATION STATING THAT LIBYA DID NOT SHOOT DOWN US PLANES BUT HAD SHOT DOWN "TWO US AIR ESPIONAGE TARGETS (DRONES)" HE STATED THAT THE U.S. SIXFLEET HAD LAUNCHED A NUMBER OF THESE DRONES PRIOR TO THE OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES. HE CLAIMED LIBYA CONSIDERED THIS "DIRECT ESPIONAGE AND ACTUAL PARTICIPATION IN THE AGGRESSION AGAINST US." THE BASE COMMANDER REPORTEDLY SHOWED THE KUWAITI CORRESPONDENT ALLEGED WRECKAGE OF THE DRONES, AND CLAIMED THAT THIS WAS PROOF OF LIBYA'S ACCUSATION. HE INDICATED THAT LIBYA ANTICIPATED RENEWED HOSTILITIES AT ANY TIME AND "ALL THIS WILL DEPEND ON THE US ADMINISTRATION AS YOU KNOW." PRIOR TO THE ACCUSATIONS OF US INVOLVEMENT IN THE RECENT HOSTILITIES, THE LIBYAN COMMANDER REITERATED PREVIOUSLY REPORTED LIBYAN CLAIMS CONCERNING THE DAMAGE IT HAD INFLICTED UPON EGYPTIAN FORCES.

2. AUG 7 EDITORIAL IN LIBYA'S DAILY AL FAJR AL JIHAD CLAIMED THAT EGYPT SUFFERED "ENORMOUS LOSSES" OF PERSONNEL AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT DURING RECENT HOSTILITIES. EDITORIAL CLAIMED THAT THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE WERE AWARE OF THESE LOSSES AND FURTHER ACCUSED SADAT OF LYING TO EGYPTIAN PEOPLE TO OBSCURE THE TRUTH OF "THEIR NEW TRAGEDY AND ITS CONSEQUENCES" RESULTING FROM THE DEFEAT BY LIBYANS. EDITORIAL DENIED EGYPTIAN ALLEGATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF PRESENCE CUBAN TROOPS IN TOBRUK AND DESCRIBED ALLEGATIONS AS A NEW FABRICATION OF SADAT WHO IS "ASHAMED TO ADMIT HE WAS DEFEATED BY LIBYANS." AUG 6 MEDIA BROADCAST ALSO ACCUSES SADAT'S REGIME OF EXECUTING AIR FORCE OFFICERS WHO REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE IN RECENT BORDER HOSTILITIES. LIBYA RADIO REPORTS THAT FLIGHT LIEUTENANT SAID RADI WAS EXECUTED IN JAN KLEASE BECAUSE OF HIS REFUSAL TO FLY MISSIONS AGAINST LIBYAN ABDEL NASIR AIR BASE. MEDIA ALLEGES THAT ANOTHER LIEUTENANT OF EGYPT'S NINTH RECONNAISSANCE GROUP AND AN UNNAMED OFFICER FROM THE 69TH GROUP WERE ALSO EXECUTED AT MATRUH MILITARY BASE. AMIDST THESE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST SADAT'S REGIME, LIBYAN MEDIA CONTINUES TO BROADCAST REPORTS OF ARRIVAL OF ARAB VOLUNTEERS FOR LIBYA'S MILITARY. ACCORDING ONE REPORT, A BATTALION OF VOLUNTEERS HAS BEEN FORMED IN SEBHA. REPORTS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES INDICATE THAT THE VOLUNTEERS ARE PALESTINIAN REJECTIONIST ELEMENTS BEING TRANSPORTED BY LIBYAN AIRLINES FROM LEBANON. JOHNS

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